

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4238

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0943

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON'S RESPONSE TO NEWSWEEK
MAGAZINE ARTICLE

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 893

1. REFTEL REPORTED FONMIN PATTERSON'S PREPARED STATEMENT REFUTING VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS BY JOURNALIST ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE IN THE FEBRUARY 28 EDITION OF NEWSWEEK. BASIC THRUST OF PATTERSON'S STATEMENT WAS THAT THE ARTICLE CONTAINED A WIDE RANGE OF "PALPABLE LIES, INNUMERABLE HALF-TRUTHS AND COUNTLESS PRE-CONCEPTIONS". WHILE IT IS TRUE THERE WERE SOME FACTUAL ERRORS IN THE DE BORCHGRAVE STORY, THE BASIC STORY LINE IS ACCURATE INsofar AS WE ARE ABLE TO JUDGE THE SITUATION. MOREOVER MANY OF PATTERSON'S REFUTATIONS ARE THEMSELVES HALF-TRUTHS OR BLATANT DISTORTIONS OF FACT. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE FOREGOING ARE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SEVERAL OF PATTERSON'S STATEMENTS.

2. PATTERSON SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NOT
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FIRE ANYBODY FROM SPECIAL BRANCH. THIS IS TECHNICALLY ACCURATE. MANLEY HAS FORCED INTO EARLY RETIRMENT A NUMBER OF SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS WHO WERE NOT PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH THE CUBANS OR WHO WERE OPPOSED TO THE POLITICALIZATION OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH.

3. PATTERSON SAID THAT CUBAN AIRLINES DO NOT SHUTTLE

IN AND OUT AT ALL HOURS LOADING AND UNLOADING CRATES
AND PEOPLE WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED AND NO RECORDS KEPT.
AIR CUBANA IN FACT HAS DONE PRECISELY THAT OFF AND ON
FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

4. PATTERSON DENIED DE BORCHGRAVE'S ALLEGATION THAT
SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND PNP AIDES HAD ORGANIZED
PHILIP AGEE'S VISIT TO JAMAICA. THIS STATEMENT IS A
HALF-TRUTH. THE GOJ OFFICIALS MOST DEEPLY INVOLVED IN
THE HANDLING OF AGREE'S VISIT WERE PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARIES AND/OR PNP OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF THE
AGEE VISIT. THE KEY ACTORS, HUGH SMALL, ARNOLD BERTAM
AND D.K. DUNCAN, HAVE ALL BEEN APPOINTED MINISTERS
SINCE THE DECEMBER 15 ELECTIONS.

5. PATTERSON IS RIGHT IN STATING THERE WAS NO
REPORT OF RAPE DURING THE REMA INCIDENT. BUT THERE
CERTAINLY WERE REPORTS OF MURDER AND OTHER LESSER
FORMS OF VIOLENCE.

6. PATTERSON DENIED DE BORCHGRAVE'S ALLEGATION THAT
MANLEY IS ORGANIZING A 20,000 MEMBER PEOPLE'S MILITIA
TO "STAND UP TO THE ARMY". WE DON'T KNOW THE PROJECTED
SIZE OF THE HOME GUARD NOW BEING ORGANIZED BY THE
MANLEY GOVERNMENT, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT IT IS INTENDED
TO SERVE AS A PEOPLE'S MILITIA WHICH WILL ASSUME,
ALONG WITH POLITICALLY RELIABLE UNITS OF THE POLICE,
THE SECURITY FUNCTIONS OF THE ARMY. NO LESS AN
AUTHORITY THAN THE PRIME MINISTER'S PARLIAMENTARY
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SECRETARY FOR HOME GUARD AFFAIRS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED
THIS DECISION SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. HE SAID THAT THE
ARMY IN THE FUTURE WOULD NO LONGER SERVE A SECURITY
FUNCTION BUT WOULD BE TURNED OUT TO BUILD BRIDGES, ROADS,
ETC.

7. PATTERSON SAID "THERE IS NO SPLIT IN THE PNP BETWEEN
MODERATE AND PRO-CUBAN HARD-LINERS". PATTERSON MUST
BE JUST ABOUT THE ONLY JAMAICAN ON THE ISLAND WHO IS
UNAWARE OF THIS SPLIT.

8. WE SEE NO REASON TO GET INTO THE BUSINESS OF
DEFENDING IN MEETINGS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS DE BORCHGRAVE'S
ALLEGATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND PATTERSON AND OTHER
GOJ OFFICIALS ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT THOSE
ALLEGATIONS AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL OFFER REFUTATIONS
ALONG THE LINES OF REFTTEL IN CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON,
NEW YORK, AND ELSEWHERE. THE ABOVE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES
OF DISTORTED REFUTATIONS ARE REPORTED SO AS TO ASSURE

THOSE CONCERNED WILL RECEIVE HIS REMARKS WITH A SUB-
STANTIAL GRAIN OF SALT.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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